

November 24, 2008

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA360-9-5

SUBJECT: PER - EXIGENCY OF SERVICE DECLARATION

PURPOSE. To notify Iowa NRCS employees of the Exigency of Service Declaration due to the 2008 Financial Audit.

EXPIRATION DATE. September 30, 2010

On November 19, 2008, Arlen Lancaster, Chief, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), issued National Bulletin 360-9-14, Exigency of Service Declaration, in which he declared work associated with the NRCS 2008 Financial Audit open obligations review an exigency of service for the remainder of the 2008 calendar year, effective November 16, 2008. Please refer to Exigency of Service Declaration. By doing so, he has authorized that any leave, approved in writing prior to November 22, 2008, and subsequently cancelled as a result of work associated with this open obligations review will be eligible to be considered for restoration after the end of the leave year, which is January 3, 2009.

For specific information regarding annual leave use and restoration, please refer to National Bulletin 360-9-10, Annual Leave Use and Restoration.

There is a big job ahead of us in lowa as we begin this open obligations review. I am asking all NRCS employees in lowa to be prepared to provide assistance in meeting the deadline for completion of this review, if called upon. We have established a team of employees who have recently returned from a training session in Dallas, Texas, in which they received guidance and instruction on how to implement this review. Each team member will begin that process soon by selecting those employees necessary to assist them in their part of the review. They will provide training to their group and the work will begin. Again, it is a big job and many of you will be asked to help.

I know the disruption that this will cause you during the holiday season. It is unavoidable, and extremely important to the agency and to each of its employees that this review be completed in a timely manner. In the event that the review is completed earlier than expected, supervisors and managers will be authorized to work with their employees to reschedule any cancelled leave that can be used before January 3, 2008.

If you have any questions about your role in this review please direct your questions to your immediate supervisor or assistant state conservationist for field operations. Your questions about leave restoration may be directed to the Human Resources Staff at (515) 284-4357.

/s/Richard Sims
State Conservationist